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CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A method in a data processing system for sending content from a first application to a second application, the method comprising the computer implemented steps of:
responsive to detecting a user input indicating a selection of the content for transfer to the second application, copying the selection of the content to form copied content; and
automatically sending the copied content to the second application.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the sending step comprises:
initiating the second application; and
sending the copied content to the second application.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the copied content is sent to the second application using an application program interface.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the first application and the second application are selected from one of a word processing program, an email program, an instant messaging program, or a spreadsheet program.

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5. The method of claim 1, wherein the copying step comprises:

copying, by a data transfer process in an operating system process, the selection of the content to form copied content in response to detecting the user input.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the sending step comprises:

initiating execution of the second application, by the data transfer process, if the second application is not currently executing;

sending, by the data transfer process, the copied content to the second application.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the second application is a communications program and wherein the sending step further comprises:

initiating a transfer of the copied content, by the data transfer process, to a user selected destination.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the copied content is store in a clip board handled by an operating system.

9. The method of claim 1 further, wherein the copying step comprises:

presenting a graphical user interface in response indicating transfer functions; and

automatically copying the selection of the content to form copied content in response to a selection of a transfer type through the graphical user interface.

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10. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

responsive to a second user input indicating a selection of content for transfer to a file, copying the selection of content to form copied content; and saving the copied content to the file.

11. A means in a data processing system for sending content from a first application to a second application, the data processing system comprising:

copying means for copying a selection of the content to form copied content in response to detecting a user input indicating a selection of the content for transfer to the second application; and

automatic sending means for automatically sending the copied content to the second application.

12. The data processing system of claim 11, wherein the sending means comprises:

initiating means for initiating the second application; and

sending means for sending the copied content to the second application.

13. The data processing system of claim 12, wherein the copied content is sent to the second application using an application program interface.

14. The data processing system of claim 11, wherein the first application and the second application are selected

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from one of a word processing program, an email program, an instant messaging program, or a spreadsheet program.

15. The data processing system of claim 11, wherein the copying means comprises:

copying means, in a data transfer process in an operating system process, for copying the selection of the content to form copied content in response to detecting the user input.

16. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for sending content from a first application to a second application, the computer program product comprising the computer implemented instructions of:

first instructions for copying the selection of the content to form copied content in response to detecting a user input indicating a selection of content for transfer to the second application; and

second instructions for automatically sending the copied content to the second application.

17. The computer program product of claim 16, wherein the second instructions comprises:

first sub instructions for initiating the second application; and

second sub instructions for sending the content to the second application.

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18. The computer program product of claim 17, wherein the copied content is sent to the second application using an application program interface.

19. The computer program product of claim 16, wherein the first application and the second application are selected from one of a word processing program, an email program, an instant messaging program, or a spreadsheet program.

20. A data processing system comprising:

- a bus system;

- a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the memory includes a set of instructions; and

- a processing unit connected to the bus system, wherein the processing unit executes the set of instructions to copy a selection of content to form copied content in response to detecting a user input indicating the selection of the content for transfer to a second application; and automatically send the copied content to the second application.